

IN THE CLAIMS

1. – 42. (canceled)

43. **(currently amended)** A switch station, ~~which exchanges a fixed-length packet with a predetermined format,~~ comprising:

a switch exchanging ~~the fixed-length packet~~ an ATM cell;

~~a memory storing control data to control operations of the switch station;~~

~~an intra-station device, accommodating a subscriber line, performing a communication operation on a subscriber ATM cell that is transmitted to or received from the subscriber line;~~

a control processor generating control information in a link access protocol (LAP) frame data format, which cannot be exchanged by said switch, ~~to control operations of this switch station;~~

~~an intra-station device, provided within this switch station, performing a communication operation on a subscriber fixed-length packet according to the control information from said control processor; and~~

an interface unit converting the data format of the generated control information into a data format of the ~~fixed-length packet which said switch can exchange;~~

~~wherein the converted control information is communicated through said switch~~ ATM cell to transmit the control information to the intra-station device through the switch, wherein

the control information is communicated according to link access protocol, ~~and~~

the intra-station device, upon receiving the control information from the control processor, transmits a direct memory access request to the interface unit to obtain control data stored in the memory.

said interface unit obtains the control data from the memory according to the direct memory access request, and converts the data format of the control information data into the data format processed by the switch station, adds to the control information such routing information as can be identified by the switch station and routed by said interface unit at a receiving equipment, and transmits the control information appended with the routing information to the switch station of the ATM cell to transmit the control data to the intra-station device through the switch, and

the intra-station device performs a communication operation on the subscriber ATM cell based on the control data received through the switch.

44. (previously presented) The switch station according to claim 43, wherein said intra-station device comprises identifying means for identifying whether received data is subscriber data or the control information; and

said intra-station device transmits the data after adding routing information, when said identifying means has received the subscribed data, to received subscriber data to be routed to a destination, and after adding the routing information, when said identifying means has received the control information, to received control information to be routed to said interface unit at said receiving equipment.

45. – 95. **(canceled)**